

# CAUTION!

Fall/Winter 2005

Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Magazine



## *Winter Driving*

### IN THIS ISSUE

IDOT Receives Award • Think First • Accident Information Section




During difficult times, we, as a country, continually pull together to lend a helping hand to one another. With Hurricane Katrina, it is no different. Recent news coverage of Katrina's aftermath provides us with story after story of communities opening their hearts and homes to aid the Gulf Coast survivors. Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and the state of Illinois' relief efforts have included:

- sending an emergency medical team;
- sending the Illinois National Guard, firefighters and equipment;
- offering Illinois residents, displaced from their college or university, a chance to continue their education at an Illinois community college;
- opening Illinois public schools to displaced children;
- dispatching an 11-member Incident Management Team (IMT) to support Mississippi emergency management personnel;
- setting-up hotlines making it easier for the public to help hurricane victims;
- and opening our doors to 5,000 to 10,000 hurricane victims. For a more detailed list of related press releases visit the state of Illinois website at <http://www.illinois.gov/katrina/releases.cfm>.

I'm proud to add that personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation have provided support to the State Emergency Operations Center in helping transport hurricane victims since September 1, 2005. Additionally, we have been involved with:

- transporting tables and chairs for use at the receiving locations;
- assisting passengers;
- cleaning and tearing down the airport reception areas;
- coordinating bus transportation and airport services;
- coordinating passenger bus pick-ups and airplane flights. The buses were used to transport people from arriving flights at O'Hare, MidAmerica and Rockford airports to temporary lodging provided by the Department of Human Services until permanent apartments could be arranged.
- sending personnel who worked sixteen hour shifts when the State Emergency Operations Center was activated;
- utilizing IDOT trucks to transport supplies for the Illinois Law Enforcement contingent working in New Orleans;
- granting hours of service relief to trucks hauling fuel; and
- granting concurrences of movement for trucks weighing up to 95,000 pounds, 14 feet in width and 100 feet in length, carrying needed supplies and equipment.

Other state agencies are offering their assistance as well in the recovery and clean-up efforts in the Gulf Coast and to the victims arriving in Illinois. Each of us can make a difference. For links and information on how you can help, please visit our State of Illinois website at <http://www.illinois.gov/>. Your contributions are much appreciated during this time of great need.



Timothy W. Martin  
Secretary

# CAUTION!

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### COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY

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Several years ago my wife and I were very involved with our daughter's high school athletic booster club. That booster club used trivia nights to raise thousands of dollars to assist in funding the school's athletic program. Every month, we would witness 200 to 300 people learn as they seriously challenged each other's skill at answering trivia questions.

Earlier this year, the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) and Office of External Affairs started planning its state fair exhibit. In the past, the exhibit had primarily served as a place for traffic safety trinkets and brochures to be handed out. This year the planning committee wanted to change the focus of the exhibit to make it more educational and interactive. The concept of using traffic safety-related data in a trivia question format emerged and the ball started to roll. Traffic safety trivia kiosks/arcades were designed and developed for the exhibit and they were a huge success due to special efforts by Tom Courtney and his crew in the Exhibit Shop and Vince Nadalini and Tim Carroll from the Bureau of Information Processing and our DTS staff.


In addition to the trivia kiosks/arcades, the Illinois State Fair exhibit had several other new educational stations. One of the most popular was the Jessica Bacon vehicle. Jessica was involved in a head-on car crash on November 13, 2004. She escaped with several non-life threatening injuries thanks to wearing her safety belt. State fairgoers couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the mangled vehicle and that Jessica survived. Jessica and her family spent two days greeting people and explaining how she survived and the importance of wearing safety belts.

Other opportunities for fairgoers included:

- talking to MADD members;
- getting their child passenger safety questions answered by certified technicians;
- giving adults (21 years of age or older) the occasion to have their blood alcohol level checked by our law enforcement liaisons;
- having Division of Aeronautics representatives available to answer questions about aeronautics safety programs; and
- having their safety passports validated by our DTS staff at the very popular "safety bar" which served cold water.

No doubt, state fairgoers left the exhibit with a better understanding of the Illinois Department of Transportation's many safety programs. We will continue to utilize trivia questions as a vehicle to communicate our safety message. In this, and future issues of Caution, we will share some trivia questions with our readers. We at Traffic Safety believe, that through participating in educational programs, the more likely we will be to make wiser choices including wearing safety belts and not drinking and driving.

**Have a safe fall and holiday season.**

  
 Michael R. Stout  
 Director



# Safe Winter Driving

The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving:

**PREPARE** for the trip;

**PROTECT** yourself; and

**PREVENT** crashes on the road.

## PREPARE

### MAINTAIN YOUR CAR

Check battery and tire tread, keep your windows clear, put nofreeze fluid in the washer reservoir, check your antifreeze.

### HAVE ON HAND

Flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

### STOPPED OR STALLED?

Stay with your car, don't over exert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

### PLAN YOUR ROUTE

Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

## PRACTICE COLD WEATHER DRIVING!

- During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot
- Steer into a skid
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space

## PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat
- Sit back 10 inches from an air bag

## PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving
- Slow down and increase distances between cars
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible

From U.S. Department of Transportation and NHTSA

# Federal Emergency Management Agency Factsheet: Winter Driving

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

## BEFORE

### HAVE A MECHANIC CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

#### ON YOUR CAR.

- Battery
- Antifreeze
- Wipers and windshield washer fluid
- Ignition system
- Thermostat
- Lights
- Flashing hazard lights
- Exhaust system
- Heater
- Brakes
- Defroster
- Oil level (if necessary, replace existing oil with a winter grade oil or the SAE 10w/30 weight variety)

### INSTALL GOOD WINTER TIRES.

Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

### KEEP A WINDSHIELD SCRAPER AND SMALL BROOM FOR ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL.

### MAINTAIN AT LEAST A HALF TANK OF GAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON.

### PLAN LONG TRIPS CAREFULLY.

Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person. If you must go out during a winter storm, use public transportation.

### DRESS WARMLY.

Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing.

### CARRY FOOD AND WATER.

Store a supply of high energy "munchies" and several bottles of water.

Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter for more information on winter driving.

## WINTER CAR KIT

*Keep these items in your car:*

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags (for sanitation)
- Matches
- Extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap
- Rain gear and extra clothes
- Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- Small shovel
- Small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Booster cables
- Set of tire chains or traction mats
- Cards, games, and puzzles
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Canned fruit and nuts
- Nonelectric can opener
- Bottled water

## DURING IF TRAPPED IN CAR DURING A BLIZZARD STAY IN THE CAR.

Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow.



### DISPLAY A TROUBLE SIGN.

Hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raise the hood.

### OCCASIONALLY RUN ENGINE TO KEEP WARM.

Turn on the car's engine for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater when the car is running. Also, turn on the car's dome light when the car is running.

*Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning.* Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.

### WATCH FOR SIGNS OF FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA.

#### DO MINOR EXERCISES TO KEEP UP CIRCULATION.

Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.

#### FOR WARMTH, HUDDLE TOGETHER.

Use newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation.

#### AVOID OVEREXERTION.

Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse. Be aware of symptoms of dehydration.

#### WIND CHILL

"Wind chill" is a calculation of how cold it feels outside when the effects of temperature and wind speed are combined. A strong wind combined with a temperature of just below freezing can have the same effect as a still air temperature about 35 degrees colder.

### WINTER STORM WATCHES AND WARNINGS

A winter storm watch indicates that severe winter weather may affect your area. A winter storm warning indicates that severe winter weather conditions are definitely on the way.

A blizzard warning means that large amounts of falling or blowing snow and sustained winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

### FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

Frostbite is a severe reaction to cold exposure that can permanently damage its victims. A loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in fingers, toes, or nose and ear lobes are symptoms of frostbite.

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

If frostbite or hypothermia is suspected, begin warming the person slowly and seek immediate medical assistance. Warm the person's trunk first. Use your own body heat to help. Arms and legs should be warmed last because stimulation of the limbs can drive cold blood toward the heart and lead to heart failure.

Put person in dry clothing and wrap their entire body in a blanket.

Never give a frostbite or hypothermia victim something with caffeine in it (like coffee or tea) or alcohol. Caffeine, a stimulant, can cause the heart to beat faster and hasten the effects the cold has on the body. Alcohol, a depressant, can slow the heart and also hasten the ill effects of cold body temperatures. ⚠

# IDOT Office of External Affairs Receives National Recognition

In July 2004, the Office of External Affairs (OEA), under the direction of Kim Morreale was created and one of its first tasks was to evaluate all of Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) programs. One realization of this evaluation was that IDOT works on some great projects. However, nobody seems to realize what an outstanding job IDOT does.

In August, the American Association of State Highway Transportation Organizations (AASHTO) wrote to IDOT and asked if we would like to enter their awards competition. Kim Morreale took on the challenge and assembled a focus group of OEA employees from across the state to meet and put together a presentation that would make other transportation departments take notice.

On Tuesday September 5, 2005, Kim received a call from the Director of Communications for AASHTO that even took her by surprise; she was notified that IDOT would be the recipient of AASHTO's highest Honor --- "The EXCEL Award" for excellence at the annual awards dinner in Delaware. This award was being presented to IDOT for its submission of public

relations efforts on the I-74 construction project in Peoria which was nicknamed: "THE BIG FIX"

"THE BIG FIX" is a \$460 million multi year project which started in November 2001, and is scheduled for completion in December 2006. This construction project directly affected the lives of 110,000 local residents in Peoria, as well as interstate travelers. Thanks to the communications efforts of the OEA, the Mayor of Peoria publicly lauded IDOT for its communications efforts at the Peoria city council meeting on March 22, 2005.

After reviewing the IDOT presentation of "THE BIG FIX" a panel of transportation experts wrote to IDOT and stated: *AWESOME CAMPAIGN! The graphics are great! Commercial was hilarious. We love the bright colors and the humor used to inform the public of alternative routes. The website is very cool and we loved the maps of the construction areas (before and after). The progress meter was our favorite --- what a great job of making a highway project FUN! LOVE IT!*

By James Boratyn, Office of External Affairs

## CDOT Boss Reviews CAUTION! Magazine

Cheri Heramb, the newly appointed Acting Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), recently met with Jim Boratyn from the IDOT Office of External Affairs and discussed CAUTION Magazine. Donning her Orange Work Zone Safety Pin, Cheri stated that not only does she look forward to her new role in the second largest transportation agency in Illinois but she also looks forward to her interactions with a former co-worker who is Illinois Department of Transportation's very own Secretary Tim Martin. The Acting Commissioner mentioned that during his tenure at CDOT, Tim Martin was one of the finest engineers that she has had the opportunity to work with.

By James Boratyn, Office of External Affairs



Cheri Heramb and Jim Boratyn



# FY 2006 Highway Safety Plan

The Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) programmed \$20.5 million in federal highway safety funds as outlined in the FY 06, Illinois Highway Safety Plan (HSP). The federal funds administered by IDOT/DTS are used to support and establish numerous highway safety projects designed to reduce highway deaths and injuries.

In 2004, Illinois' traffic deaths fell to a 60 year low, a total of 1,356 people died in traffic crashes. This number reflects an 8 percent drop from the 1,454 traffic deaths recorded in 2003. The primary safety belt law, tougher rules on teen driving, child passenger safety and increased enforcement of traffic safety laws are some of the reasons for the decrease in fatalities.

The HSP focuses on providing financial resources where they are needed the most and renews our commitment to saving lives and preventing injuries on Illinois roads.

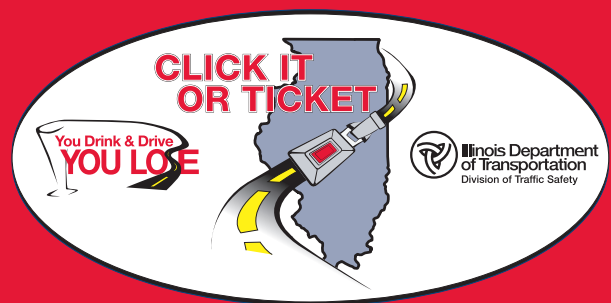
To better target the use of highway safety funds, Illinois continues to adopt the federal model of focusing resources at the problem: impaired driving and occupant protection related fatalities. The model requires states to identify counties in which 85 percent of the population resides where 70 percent of fatalities and 60 percent of alcohol-related fatalities have occurred. Utilizing this model, Illinois is focusing its traffic safety

efforts in 23 counties statewide: Adams, Champaign, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, LaSalle, Macon, Madison, McHenry, McLean, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, St. Clair, Tazewell, Vermillion, Whiteside, Will, Williamson and Winnebago.

The federal funds are made available to Illinois by the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ⚠

By Steve Esslinger, State Agency Project Administrator

## FY2006 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN





# Think First

ThinkFirst is a national Head and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program founded in 1986 by America's neurosurgeons in an effort to decrease the leading cause of childhood death and disability—unintentional injury. The mission of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation is “leading injury prevention through education, research and policy.” ThinkFirst has grown to over 275 chapters throughout the United States. In Illinois there are now eight active chapters with the national foundation office being located in Park Ridge, IL. The website for the national foundation is [www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org).

The central and southern Illinois ThinkFirst chapter is coordinated through Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield and funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety. This program is now in its fifteenth program year and brings the message “use your mind to protect your body” to high-risk age groups. These upbeat programs educate young people about personal vulnerability and risk-taking with particular emphasis on motor vehicle safety and occupant protection. Educated choices can prevent injuries from happening. The reminder that we are not invincible no matter what age we are and that these devastating injuries do happen is simply a fact. But the good news is---most of the time these injuries don't have to happen---they are preventable!

Partnerships are definitely the most important part of this endeavor. Injury prevention is for everyone, and everyone has an important part in this mission! As the ThinkFirst program has grown and expanded through the years, so have their partnerships. It's amazing how much influence each person has on those around them and what a domino effect it all is. Just buckling our own safety belt every time sets an example for others and can save countless lives. ThinkFirst chapters across the country agree that the strongest component of the program is the Voices for Injury Prevention (VIP) speaker. This person is someone who has had a brain and/or spinal cord injury and shares with the audience their powerful message of survival, how their injury happened and perhaps how it could have been prevented.



(l-r) Anita Weinhoeft,  
Daniel J. Hicks, Mary  
Kay Reed, RN, MPA,  
Sharon Sander

Danny Hicks is a VIP with the central Illinois Think First program who has a powerful message to share. Injured in a motor vehicle crash at age 18, Danny was an unrestrained passenger in an alcohol related crash. Ejected from the vehicle, he sustained a brain and spinal cord injury which resulted in permanent paralysis. Danny has been a speaker with ThinkFirst for fifteen years and has shared his personal experience with over 180,000 young people throughout Illinois. Danny challenges his teenage audiences to “ThinkFirst” and not make the same mistake he made. When he tells them to “Buckle Up, Every Trip, Every Time” he means it and he gets their attention. Kids know he is there because he cares about them, and he tells it like it is. The reality is one mistake can last a lifetime in its consequences.

Danny also has another message for his audience that is especially important in these times of life's unexpected challenges. “No matter what, never give up your dreams”. He tells the kids that his lifelong dream since he was a child was to get his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. In 2005 Danny accomplished that goal and according to his Tae Kwon Do Instructor, Bill Auvenshine “Danny is the only person who uses a wheelchair that I know of that has been able to go from a white belt to a black belt.”

Danny is an inspiration to all. Kids love him and it's easy to see why they listen when he tells them “Buckle up...it will save your life”.

For more information on the ThinkFirst/SIU School of Medicine, go to their website: [www.siumed.edu/thinkfirst](http://www.siumed.edu/thinkfirst). Our program activities and upcoming events are posted, as well as links to injury prevention resources and injury statistics. ⚠️

By Mary Kay Reed, RN, MPA, SIU School of Medicine

# Regional Occupant Protection Coordinators

Illinois has a strong Occupant Protection (OP) history. In recent years, we passed the primary safety belt law, strengthened our Child Passenger Protection Act to cover booster seat use, and initiated graduated driver licensing statutes to compliment our existing high profile enforcement efforts and public education campaigns. As we look forward to the future, we welcome seven new Regional OP Coordinators who will focus on the maintenance and strengthening of Illinois' OP program.

The Regional OP Coordinators are located throughout the state and will focus on increasing safety belt use to 90% within their regions, coordinating Child Passenger Safety trainings and activities with local technicians, and ensuring all Illinois high schools, are receiving traffic safety education. The Regional OP Coordinators will work closely within the states local OP frameworks to enhance the states programming. Please feel free to contact the OP Coordinator in your region to set up training, obtain referrals to local Child Passenger Safety technicians, and provide OP presentations.

You can find complete contact information for the Regional OP Coordinators at the revised [www.buckleupillinois.org](http://www.buckleupillinois.org) website. ⚠

*By Jahari Piersol, State Occupant Protection Coordinator*

*Charlotte Troyer, Assistant State Occupant Protection Coordinator*

## NORTHWESTERN IL OP COORDINATOR

**MELANIE WINGO**

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**815-720-4345**

## COLLAR AND COOK COUNTIES OP COORDINATOR

**TOM MCQUEEN**

**RUSH-COPLEY MEDICAL CENTER**

**(630) 236-4262**

## CHICAGO OP COORDINATOR

**WANDA VASQUEZ**

**REHAB INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO**

**312-238-4538**

## WEST CENTRAL OP COORDINATOR

**NICOLE BAER**

**ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE**

**309-690-7300**

## EAST CENTRAL OP COORDINATOR

**JENNIFER TONEY**

**CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK**

**309-828-1892**

## SOUTHWESTERN OP COORDINATOR

**RACHEL WALKER**

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SAFETY CENTER**

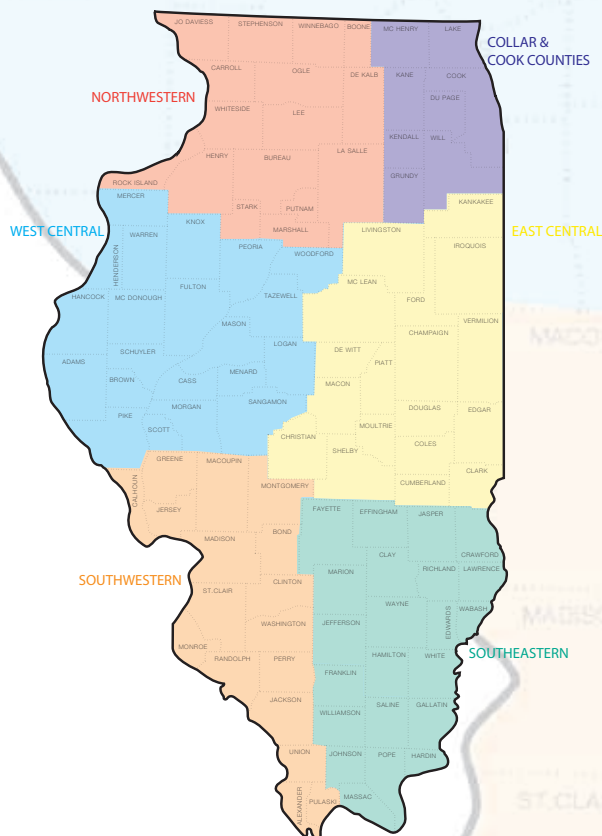
**618-453-1359**

## SOUTHEASTERN OP COORDINATOR

**KATHY WHITE**

**WABASH AREA DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

**618-963-2387**





## Saving Lives

The City of Pekin is a role model for working together to make a safer community. Although funding was not available, Sergeant Rob McAtee, Grant Director for the city's police department, saw the need to promote safety and he wasn't about to let a small obstacle like funding throw him off track.

Partnering with the Dave Pagliaro, Director of Pekin's streets department and Bill Scarcliff an employee of the city's streets department, a combination of new and recycled blank street signs were used to create 13 unique "Buckle Up" signs. The signs, posted at the high school, fire stations, sewage treatment plant, municipal airport, vehicle service department, streets department and police department are a creative and friendly reminder to everyone that buckling up saves lives!

This is an innovative example of what a community can achieve by working together. The financial cost to the city was negligible but the cost in lives saved is immeasurable. Creative community policing projects like this happen, when motivated individuals who are concerned about traffic safety in their community come together to overcome any obstacles. Even in this time of financial constraints, these dedicated citizens recognized the importance of the program and worked to give it life. ⚠️

By Dan Kent, *Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Liaison Supervisor*

**HOW MANY OTHER TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVOCATES ARE OUT THERE? LET US HEAR FROM YOU.... CONTACT US AT 217/558-0568. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**





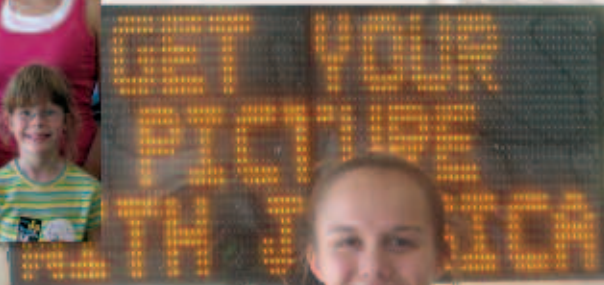
# ILLINOIS STATE FAIR







On Saturday, August 20, 2005 and Sunday, August 21, 2005, 17-year-old Jessica Bacon spoke to fairgoers about the importance of wearing their safety belt. Her car, which was on display, was totaled by damages from a collision. Jessica walked away with only minor injuries because she was wearing her safety belt.





# School Bus News

## NEW IN SCHOOL BUS SAFETY...

Governor Blagojevich signed Public Act 94-519 on August 10, 2005 that requires school bus drivers to turn off all noise producing accessories, including heater blowers, defroster fans, auxiliary fans, and radios before crossing a railroad track or tracks. The new law also requires that any school bus manufactured on or after January 1, 2006 must be equipped with a noise suppression switch capable of turning off all noise producing accessories including, but not limited to, those accessories listed above.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS...

Parents can help their children be aware of the dangers around school buses. Most school bus fatalities occur when children are outside the bus. Seventy-five percent of school bus fatalities involve children under the age of nine. Parents should make sure their children know and follow these rules:

1. Be on time at the bus stop.
2. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Stand back from the curb.
4. Don't push or shove.
5. Stay in your seat.
6. Don't yell or shout.
7. Always obey the driver.
8. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
9. Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
10. Never crawl under a school bus.

Parents should coordinate with other parents to ensure an adult is present at the bus stop every day, especially when children under the age of nine are present. Parents should also be aware of the danger of clothing with drawstrings around school buses and other school bus equipment. Clothing and accessories with drawstrings can catch on playground equipment, fences, school bus doors and escalators and should either be removed, shortened or replaced with another kind of fastener.

## STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUSES...

Motorists are often confused about when the law requires them to stop for school buses. The following is based on Illinois law:

When the red lights at the top of the school bus are flashing and the stop arm panel is extended, motorists are required to STOP at any location. This includes, but is not limited to, motorists traveling from either direction on a two-lane roadway; motorists traveling in any lane on a one-way street; and/or motorists traveling through parking lots.

*The only exception to this law is as follows:*

**The driver of a vehicle upon a highway having four or more lanes which permits at least two lanes of traffic to travel in opposite directions need not stop such vehicle upon meeting a school bus which is stopped in the opposing roadway; and need not stop such vehicle when driving upon a controlled access highway when passing a school bus traveling in either direction that is stopped in a loading zone adjacent to the surfaced or improved part of the controlled access highway where pedestrians are not permitted to cross.**

Flashing amber lights are activated during the last 100 feet traveled by the school bus before stopping within an urban area (200 feet outside an urban area). The amber flashing signal lamps serve as a pre-warning that the bus is preparing to stop. Flashing red lights and the extended stop arm mean that the bus is stopped to either load or unload school children.

Any person convicted of passing a stopped school bus will lose his/her driving privileges for 3 months and be fined \$150. If a motorist is convicted a second or subsequent time within 5 years of the original conviction, his/her driving privileges will be suspended for one year and he/she will be fined \$500.

If you have any questions regarding school bus safety, please call our Commercial Vehicle Safety Section at (217) 785-1181. ⚠

## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SCHOOL YEAR!

By Cathy Allen, Regulations Development Specialist



# Hot Rod Super Nationals

**AUGUST 26-28, 2005**

In a continued effort to educate the public on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) messages of Click It or Ticket and You Drink & Drive. You Lose, the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) attended the Hot Rod Super Nationals August 26-28, 2005 in Springfield, Illinois. There were over 1000 participants showing an assortment of cars ranging from muscle cars from the '60s to traditional hot rods and custom cars. Approximately 10,000 visitors from all over the state attended this event at the Illinois State Fairgrounds to view the cars, watch the burnout contest, participate in the demolition derby and/or enter into the Miss Hot Rod competition.

This event provided DTS an opportunity to advance its mission in helping motorists make educated decisions about their safety every time they get in their vehicle. DTS staff was present to answer questions pertaining to new traffic safety laws passed by Governor Blagojevich; to promote safety belt usage and the dangers of impaired driving; and to teach parents about child passenger safety.

DTS continued in its efforts to educate the public on You Drink & Drive. You Lose and Click It or Ticket during the Route 66 Festival to be held in Springfield, Illinois on September 30 - October 2, 2005. ⚠️

*By Melissa Schaive, Assistant to the Deputy Director*





## Labor Day Mobilization 2005

On September 2, 2005 the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety (DTS), in cooperation with the Illinois State Police (ISP) and many other local and municipal law enforcement agencies, hosted four press conferences across the state to kick off the impaired driving campaign of You Drink & Drive. You Lose. About 350 local law enforcement agencies and the ISP teamed up to do more than 210 roadside safety checks and saturation patrols across the state, making this the most successful Labor Day campaign since 1999.

The campaign's major emphasis is the roadside safety checks and saturation patrols. However, the personal stories of the victims and family members of drunk driving crashes have a profound impact on the audiences they address. Mike Hinman and Denny Prior shared their moving stories to a crowd of listeners during one of the press conferences held at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

Mr. Hinman, a volunteer firefighter in the city of Loami, was on duty when he was struck by a drunk driver. Five other firefighters were also injured in the same crash. The drunk driver had a BAC of .15, nearly twice the legal limit of .08. Mr. Prior lost his son who was a passenger in an alcohol-related crash. The personal experiences shared by victims and their family members remind DTS personnel of our mission to reduce fatalities on Illinois roadways. !

By Deni Wilson, *Assistant to the Director*



## Doing the Right Thing

On Saturday, September 17, 2005, the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) participated in the Springfield Urban League's annual "Doing the Right Thing" celebration. This national event honors the achievements of youth, parents and caretakers.

DTS staff provided educational materials including school supplies with the "Do the Right Thing... Buckle Up Message" and other reminders of buckling safety belts, using child safety seats properly and not drinking and driving to the approximate 1500 children and adults who participated. Popular items that peaked youth's interest and allowed for some interaction included:

- applying buckle up tattoos with a friendly reminder to "Buckle Up";
- distributing clickers with a friendly reminder to "Click It or Ticket"; and
- fitting over 80 children with bicycle helmets; and
- partnering with the Secretary of State who hosted a bicycle rodeo. Two new bicycles were given away at a free drawing.

We also worked together with the Springfield Police Department in an effort to educate participants on the effects of drinking and driving. This was demonstrated through using the "Fatal Vision Goggles".

The Division's safety message will continue at an Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety, Child Safety Seat Check scheduled for October 22, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hanley Building parking lot. Flyers for this upcoming event were also distributed at the celebration. ⚠

By Lib Granzau, *Executive Secretary*



1. What percentage of people wear safety belts?  
A. 83% (June 2004 survey)  
B. 63% (June 2004 survey)  
C. 53% (June 2004 survey)
2. In which county do most deer crashes occur?  
A. Peoria County  
B. Cook County  
C. Madison County
3. About 2/3 of all deer crashes occur in darkness  
True  
False
4. Most school bus crashes occur on city streets.  
True  
False
5. Are more people killed on dry roadways or on roadways that are wet, icy, or snowy?  
A. Dry (Over 80% of the fatalities in 2004 were killed on roadways that were dry)  
B. Icy (Over 80% of the fatalities in 2004 were killed on roadways that were dry)  
C. Wet (Over 80% of the fatalities in 2004 were killed on roadways that were dry)
6. How many miles did people travel on Illinois roadways in 2004?  
A. Almost 87 billion miles  
B. Almost 90 billion miles  
C. Almost 109 billion miles
7. Are more people killed on urban roadways or rural roadways?  
A. Rural - 56% of the fatalities in 2004 occurred on urban roadways  
B. Urban - 56% of the fatalities in 2004 occurred on urban roadways
8. A bill signed into law by Governor Blagojevich that will be effective January 1, 2006 provides for more consistent sentencing of DUI's by requiring the prosecution of felony DUI charges be handled by local State's Attorneys offices. Previously, municipal attorneys were able to prosecute these crimes.  
True  
False
9. How soon after a crash should a driver file a motorist report with the Illinois Department of Transportation?  
A. As soon as possible but no later than 10 days after the crash  
B. No later than 15 days after the crash  
C. No later than 30 days after the crash
10. How many people die from motor vehicle crashes each year in Illinois?  
A. Fewer than 500 (397 people were killed in 2004)  
B. 500-1,000 (900 people were killed in 2004)  
C. 1,000-1,500 (1,356 people were killed in 2004)
11. On which holiday do the most people die from crashes involving a drinking driver?  
A. Labor Day - In 2004, 60% of the fatalities resulted from a crash involving a drinking driver  
B. New Year's - In 2004, 60% of the fatalities resulted from a crash involving a drinking driver  
C. Memorial Day - In 2004, 60% of the fatalities resulted from a crash involving a drinking driver
12. If you speed in a work zone and hit a worker, you can be fined \$10,000 and sentenced to 14 years in jail.  
True  
False

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20



## Program Support Unit Bureau of Safety Programs & Administrative Services

Did you know we have PIE at the Division of Traffic Safety? Before you get too excited, we have a wonderful program, Public Information and Education Materials, which supplies different entities throughout the state with traffic safety-related education materials.

By simply calling or e-mailing Lynda Ruff at RUFFLS@dot.il.gov or 217/524-4121, you will be provided with a listing of materials we have available for distribution. These materials include topics such as: DUI/Alcohol, Aggressive Driving, Bicycle Safety, Child Passenger Safety, Commercial Vehicle Safety, Occupant Restraint, School Bus Safety, as well as some of the materials printed in Spanish. In the near future, more of our materials will be translated into Spanish.

Also available are: pencils, key rings, erasers, lapel stickers and tattoos. There is a limit to the number of materials that can be ordered at one time so that everyone trying to present a safety program throughout our state can receive the needed supplies.

One of our most important lifesaving items is a CHAD sticker. CHAD stands for Children Have An iDenty and was developed as the result of a traffic crash involving a 13-month old boy named Chad. The babysitter who had been driving was killed. Chad was injured, but no one at the scene knew his identity. Only because an emergency room nurse recognized him could his parents be quickly located and his injuries be treated. Parents are encouraged to fill out this sticker and place it on the right corner (child's right) under the cushion or center back of your child's safety seat.

You can also access the order form on our website at [www.dot.il.gov](http://www.dot.il.gov), click on Traveling Public and scroll to Traffic Safety Public Education Materials. ⚠

*Note: Lynda Ruff has been managing this program since 1997.*

*By Lynda Ruff, Commercial Vehicle Support*



Lynda Ruff



Summer has slipped by and now it is fall. The Bureau of Safety Engineering (BSE) has been busy this past year building partnerships and pursuing many initiatives. With safety as a priority at both the federal and state level, the department is committed to implementing initiatives that will ensure safer roadways.

One of the critical initiatives that we were charged with was developing the first Illinois Comprehensive Safety Plan (CHSP). The CHSP is a compilation of performance-driven strategies that fall into a wide range of categories, from innovative to basic, new to old or experimental to proven and have potential to improve highway safety. We worked with the Division of Traffic Safety to partner with many outside safety stakeholders to complete the CHSP. Governor Blagojevich signed the CHSP just before Labor Day, 2005. The new federal transportation highway bill requires states to develop a CHSP by October 2006.

Another major undertaking of the BSE has been the development of a photo radar speed enforcement program. As a result of newly passed legislation, Illinois State Police now have authority to enforce highway construction and maintenance zone speed limits with cameras when workers are present. Photo enforcement vans will be equipped with cameras designed to record a clear image of the vehicle and driver, its speed and license plate. Legislation was also passed increasing penalties for speeding within work zones. First-time work zone speeders will be fined a minimum of \$375, \$125 of which will provide additional Illinois State Trooper enforcement of construction zones. A second offense will result in a minimum \$1,000 fine, with \$250 for additional enforcement, and a 90-day driver license suspension. In addition, a driver who injures or kills a worker is subject to a maximum \$10,000 fine and 14 years imprisonment.

An additional safety avenue we are pursuing is the development of a Road Safety Assessment (RSA)

program. An RSA is a formal and independent safety performance review of a transportation project performed by a team of safety specialists to address the safety of all users. Projects are given a “second look” from a safety-only perspective with intentions to discover all existing safety hazards and all hazards that will be introduced by the new design.

A system-wide approach to analyzing fatal and serious injury crashes is an effective way to better identify safety problems. Trends involving median crossover fatal crashes have been identified using this system-wide approach. This fall the department will be installing high-tension cable median rail on interstate locations where there have been a significant number of fatal crashes resulting from vehicles leaving the roadway and crossing the median to hit head-on an oncoming vehicle. Using the same system-wide approach, a safety-corridor concept for interstates has been identified. Initiatives involving the 4E’s: Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Medical Services are being identified to improve safety on high fatality interstates.

This year we partnered with the Illinois State Police (ISP) at the Illinois State Fair to promote the CHSP and photo speed enforcement. A “safety passport” concept was used to communicate the message “Do Your Part, Drive Smart” to over 500 people per hour who visited the ISP tent. This was a very successful campaign.

From providing Roadside Safety and Work Zone & Traffic Control training, studying Illinois crash patterns, evaluating new safety devices, educating the public on transportation safety, the Illinois Department of Transportation along with its partnerships are tackling the problem of safe roadways from many angles. Regardless of the task being undertaken, we are always collectively striving toward the ultimate goal of saving lives. ⚠️

*By Priscilla Tobias, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Safety Engineering*

## DIVISION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

# Bureau of Safety Data & Data Services

## Accident Information Section

### OUR MISSION

The Division of Traffic Safety's mission is to formulate, coordinate and deliver information, services and programs which will mobilize public and private resources to establish effective public policy and integrated programs to improve highway safety in Illinois.

The Accident Information Section (AIS) develops analytical programs and research materials that have potential for direct contribution to improvements in traffic safety in Illinois. Our primary challenge is to produce practical and relevant studies, observations and data that help management, engineering, and technical staff identify the interaction of major components in traffic crash patterns to determine effective intervention.

### OUR STAFF

**Traffic Statistics Unit:** responsible for data analysis, preparation of reports and statistical studies and law enforcement liaison activities. Conducts special studies in response to public and governmental inquiries.

**Accident Studies and Investigation Unit:**

responsible for analytical functions and selected on-site investigation of serious crashes in order to identify the primary causes and contributing factors. Also responsible for the Fatality Analysis Reporting System for the State of Illinois.

### OUR SERVICES

We offer a wide variety of traffic safety information services. Listed below are just a few:

- **ILLINOIS CRASH FACTS AND STATISTICS**

An annual publication that captures most of the data elements from the Illinois Traffic Crash Report. These data are compiled into various graphs and tables constructed for the general public to get a summary of the crashes that occur on Illinois roadways. Crash Facts is available on the IDOT internet site at: <http://www.dot.state.il.us/crashreports.html>

- **ILLINOIS CRASH DATA (HISTORICAL SUMMARIES)**

Historical crash data, also available at the site referenced above.

- **MONTHLY FATALITY REPORT**

Report for use in monitoring/reporting fatalities.

- **WORK ZONE REPORT**

Report provided for use in monitoring work zone fatalities.

- **HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATION IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (HALIS)**

Identifies high accident locations, segments, and spots for the State based on three years of crash data. The report helps identify potential hazardous locations for the application of countermeasures to improve safety.

- **BENEFIT/COST**

Methodology used in the selection and evaluation of Hazard Elimination (HE) projects.

- **WET SURFACE CLUSTER SITES**

Similar to the HALIS but with respect to crashes that occur on wet road surfaces.

- **COLLISIONS DIAGRAMS & GIS MAPS**

Used to provide detailed information about crashes that occur at segments or spots of interest.

- **LOCAL ACCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (LARS)**

Used to provide geographical /detailed information about crashes to participating municipalities.

- **LOCAL LIAISON REPORTS**

Monitoring of crash reports received and the forms inventories. Distribution of crash forms and related material to law enforcement agencies.

- **FARS (FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM)**

Maintenance of the NHTSA/FARS system for the State of Illinois. Data from the FARS is used to satisfy most requests for fatal crash information;



however, the FARS is primarily used to provide information pertaining to alcohol/drug-related crash involvement, occupant restraint usage, and helmet usage.

#### • SPECIAL REQUESTS

Ad hoc reports are provided on a routine basis to those interested in traffic safety.

#### OUR VALUES

AIS is committed to working with other IDOT staff, governmental and private organizations and the public in an open, cooperative atmosphere that is characterized by:

### INTEGRITY PROFESSIONALISM SERVICE

AIS holds its employees, partners, and the public in high esteem and acknowledges the views and contributions of each group to the Division's mission.

#### FEEDBACK

AIS staff are committed to providing the most accurate and complete information available, in a helpful and courteous fashion. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we continuously strive to improve our service to you. If you need more information on AIS's programs and activities, or have a special request, please contact us at AIS – 3215 Executive Park Drive, Room 100, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9211: Phone - (217) 782-2575.

#### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

When you e-mail or write to us, requesting information, we will respond within ten business days.

#### CRASH ANALYSIS USING GIS

Use GIS/CA to have a positive impact on roadway engineering, traffic signal warrant studies, speed studies, state property damage identification, project and funding determination, project improvement evaluations, public safety programs and safety project decisions. ⚠

By Mary Ann Paulis, Accident Information Section Manager



# Updates

## TRAFFIC SAFETY RELATED LEGISLATION 94TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following legislation was listed as pending in the Summer 2005 Caution newsletter, and has now been signed into law by Governor Blagojevich.

### EXCESSIVE SPEED

**HB-0767** - Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. The bill allows the court to impose a more severe sentence in cases of reckless homicide or DUI when the offender was also operating a vehicle in excess of 20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0131, Effective 07/07/05*

**HB-3648** - Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. The bill states that the court may consider driving in excess of 20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit as an aggravating factor in the offense of reckless driving or aggravated reckless driving. It also provides that the consideration of sentences of probation or conditional discharge does not apply to offenders charged with a misdemeanor or felony under the Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) or reckless homicide, when the offender was convicted of a misdemeanor or felony under the IVC or reckless homicide within the past 12 months. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0375 – Effective 01/01/06*

### DISTRACTED DRIVERS

**SB-0210** - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. The bill provides that a person under the age of 18 years who holds an instruction permit or a graduated license may not use a wireless phone while driving a vehicle on a roadway. It provides that the prohibition does not apply to use of a wireless phone to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider, or emergency services agency for emergency purposes. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0240 – Effective 07/15/05*

**HB-0960** - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. The bill provides, with the exception of emergency vehicles, that a person may not operate a motor vehicle if any kind of television or video equipment is located in the front seat area of the motor vehicle or is visible to the driver. It states that a person convicted of violating this section is guilty of a petty offense. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0185 – Effective 01/01/06*

### ALCOHOL & DRUGS

**SB-1495** - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. The bill encourages the court to sentence an offender, convicted of aggravated DUI which was the cause of death of one or more persons, to a term of imprisonment. It does not actually change the recommended sentences. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0609 – Effective 01/01/06*

### OCCUPANT PROTECTION

**SB-0229** - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and the Child Passenger Protection Act. The bill requires each driver under age 18 to ensure that each front or back seat passenger under the age of 19 (previously 18) is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0241 – Effective 01/01/06*

### SCHOOL BUSES

**HB-1387** - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. The bill requires school bus drivers operating in Illinois to turn off all interior noise making devices when approaching a railroad crossing. All new school buses manufactured on or after January 1, 2006, would have to be equipped with a noise suppression switch capable of turning off noise producing accessories including heater blowers, defroster fans, auxiliary fans and radios. Also adopts by reference, certain Parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0519 – Effective 08/10/05*

*By Mary Roseberry, Program Support Unit Manager*



## OCTOBER

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- 3-7 DRIVE SAFELY WORK WEEK** – Sponsored by Network of Employers for Traffic Safety – focuses on positive actions that drivers can take to ensure their safety and the safety of others sharing the road as they work or commute to and from work. Events are scheduled at Illinois rest areas.
- 5 WALK TO SCHOOL DAY** – Sponsored by the Partnership for a Walkable America
- 10 PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES** – Initiated by the National Society of Professional Engineers – working to lower the number of citizens who are dying in tragic and usually preventable accidents on the nation's roadways. Issues addressed are the need for improvements to our highways, vehicles and basic driver behavior.
- 16-22 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK** – Sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation –held each year during the 3rd week of October. Highlights school bus safety programs including proper behavior on the bus as in the classroom. "Be Cool, Follow the Rules."
- 22 CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECKPOINT** – Sponsored by Division of Traffic Safety, 10 a.m.-2p.m., at the IDOT Hanley Building parking lot at 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield.
- 27-31 HALLOWEEN EVENTS** – IDOT/DTS will be holding impaired driving events along with local law enforcement agencies at colleges and universities across the state. We will be educating college students on the dangers of drinking and driving by using "Fatal Vision Goggles" with activities designed to show the levels of impairment.

## NOVEMBER

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**SAFETY BELT CAMPAIGNS** – IDOT, ISP and local law enforcement agencies will conduct enforcement campaigns during the holiday season to enforce safety belt usage

## DECEMBER

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**NATIONAL DRUNK & DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH (3D Month)** – National coalition conducts public awareness and enforcement campaigns to prevent impaired driving. Reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities is one of NHTSA's top priorities. Law enforcement, justice system and community leaders work in partnership to prevent impaired driving.

## JANUARY

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- 1 ANNIVERSARY OF CHILD BOOSTER SEAT LAW**
- 22-26 TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD CONFERENCE** – Washington, DC.

## FEBRUARY

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- 5 SUPERBOWL SUNDAY** – IDOT sponsors the "Complete the Pass" campaign to encourage using designated drivers during celebrations.
- 10-19 CHICAGO AUTO SHOW** – Educational materials concerning IDOT safety initiatives will be distributed to attendees. These initiatives include campaigns addressing: You Drink & Drive. You Lose, Click It or Ticket, Child Passenger Safety and Work Zone Safety.
- 12-18 CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK** – Sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this week places an emphasis on the importance of safely transporting children. Whether children travel by car, bicycle, school bus or as pedestrians, it is everyone's responsibility to make sure each trip is as safe as possible. We encourage you to participate in the many activities that will take place in the state.





**Illinois Department  
of Transportation**

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